

Message Text

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P R 191643Z OCT 73

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 223

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USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENNA 8688

LIMDIS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS - AD HOC GROUP MEETING OCTOBER 18.

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AD HOC GROUP HEARD REPORT BY NATO INTERNATIONAL STAFF MEMBER ON SPACE ALLOCATIONS IN RENNWEG BUILDING. BILATERAL CONTACTS WITH RUMANIAN OFFICER (POPESCU) HERE REPORTED BY CANADA AND U.S. GROUP COMPLETED REVIEW OF DRAFT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WHICH MIGHT OCCUR IN PRESS CONTACTS BEFORE OPENING OF CONFERENCE, (TEXT SEPTTEL). GROUP REVIEWED CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 14, (TEXT SEPTTEL). GROUP GAVE PROVISIONAL APPROVAL TO DRAFT BELGIAN OPENING STATEMENT AFTER MAKING SEVERAL MINOR CHANGES, (TEXT SEPTTEL). IN FURTHER DISCUSSION OF US OPENING STATEMENT AD HOC GROUP WAS MOVING IN DIRECTION OF APPROVING US DRAFT AS AMENDED. END SUMMARY.

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2. RENNWEG BUILDING: MR. LUFF, IS STAFF, REPORTED THAT

IT WAS HOPED THAT THE LEASE ON RENNWEG PROPERTY WOULD BE SIGNED OCTOBER 19TH. ONCE LEASE SIGNED WORK ON RENOVATION WOULD BEGIN AND FOURTH FLOOR WOULD BE AVAILABLE ON 12 NOVEMBER, THIRD ON 26 NOVEMBER, SECOND ON 10 DECEMBER, FIRST ON 22 DECEMBER AND ENTIRE BUILDING WOULD BE OPENED BY END OF YEAR.

3. BILATERALS: ACTING BELGIAN REP (WILLOT) REPORTED HE HAD SEEN POLISH EMBASSY COUNSELOR ON OCTOBER 17TH IN ORDER TO PROPOSE TIME AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR FIRST PLENARY. POLISH COUNSELOR REPLIED THAT HE WOULD QUERY WARSAW AND HOPED FOR AN EARLY ANSWER. HE ALSO HOPED THAT POLISH REP (STRULAK) WOULD SOON ARRIVE IN VIENNA. POLISH COUNSELOR MENTIONED MIDDLE EAST CRISIS SAYING HE HOPED IT WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS. CANADIAN REP (GRANDE) SAID HE HAD RECEIVED A CABLE FROM BRUSSELS IN WHICH SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED THE HOPE TO OFFICER OF CANADIAN EMBASSY THAT THE MIDDLE EAST WAR WOULD NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT DETENTE DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS THE FORCE REDUCTION TALKS. CANADIAN REP (GRANDE) REPORTED THAT A CANADIAN DELEGATION OFFICER HAD SEEN ION POPESCU OF ROMANIAN EMBASSY ON OCTOBER 17 TO ASK IF RUMANIANS MIGHT AGREE TO AN ALPHABETICAL LIST OF SPEAKERS AT THE FIRST PLENARY. POPESCU REPLIED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT UNTIL THE ROMANIAN DELEGATION ARRIVED ON OCTOBER 25, BUT WHEN PRESSED BY THE CANADIAN HE AGREED TO QUERY BUCHAREST FOR AN EARLIER RESPONSE. US DEPREP REPORTED THAT HE HAD SEEN POPESCU ON OCTOBER 17 BUT IN DEFERENCE TO THE CANADIAN APPROACH HAD NOT RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE SPEAKERS LIST. HE SAID IN GENERAL TERMS TO POPESCU THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR THE ROMANIANS TO BE ACTIVE IN PRESENTING THEIR VIEWS TO THE WESTERN DELEGATIONS EARLY IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY LAST MINUTE COMPLICATIONS SUCH AS THOSE IN CONNECTION WITH THE FINAL PLENARY OF THE PREPARATORY TALKS IN JUNE.

4. PRESS QUERIES ABOUT AD HOC GROUP: US PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISOR REPORTED THAT REUTERS CORRESPONDENT HAD CALLED CONFIDENTIAL

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TO ASK IF AD HOC GROUP WAS MEETING AND SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO TELL PRESS THAT GROUP WAS AT WORK IN VIENNA BUT NOT TO GIVE DETAILS ON MEETINGS. AD HOC GROUP AGREED.

5. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS PAPER: AD HOC GROUP COMPLETED REVIEW OF CONTINGENCY PRESS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WHICH MIGHT ARISE IN VIENNA PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF

NEGOTIATIONS. TEXT INCORPORATING MANY CHANGES MADE BY GROUP SENT SEPTEL.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING 14 OCTOBER.
ACTING BELGIAN REP (WILLOT) TABLED DRAFT CHAIRMAN'S REPORT COVERING MEETINGS OF AD HOC GROUP IN BRUSSELS. DRAFT CONTAINED DESCRIPTION OF AD HOC GROUP DISCUSSION OF US OPENING STATEMENT WHICH REPORTED OBJECTIONS TO LENGTH AND SUBSTANCE OF PAPER AS WELL AS ARGUMENT THAT IT EXCEEDED MANDATE OF THE COUNCIL IN CM(73)83. CHAIRMAN (CANADA) AND US DEPREP OBJECTED TO THIS PASSAGE, POINTING OUT THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN THE PAST PRACTICE OF THE AD HOC GROUP TO REPORT TO COUNCIL ON DETAILS OF QUESTIONS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE AD HOC GROUP OR DELIBERATIONS LEADING TO SOME SPECIFIC OUTCOME. UK AND FRG REPS SUPPORTED US POSITION AND BELGIAN REP AGREED TO DROP PASSAGE. TEXT OF REPORT IN SEPTEL.

7. CHAIRMAN - CANADIAN REP) NOTED THAT DRAFT DID NOT CONTAIN CUSTOMARY DISCLAIMER THAT REPORT WAS CHAIRMAN'S OWN TEXT. ACTING BELGIAN REP (WILLOT SAID IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE TO REFER TO A REPORT AS PERSONAL WHEN THE GROUP HAD JUST OVERRULED HIM ON ONE POINT. US DEPREP RECALLED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE DISCLAIMER WAS TO AVOID HAVING AD HOC GROUP SPEND TIME POLISHING DRAFT WORD BY WORD, AND AT THE SAME TIME TO LEAVE ROOM FOR NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES IN BRUSSELS TO BE FREE TO COMMENT UPON THE REPORT IN NECESSARY. US DEP REP PROPOSED NEW FORMULATION FOR A DISCLAIMER TO WHICH AD HOC GROUP AGREED. IT READ: "IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 67 OF CM(73)83 REVISED, THE FOLLOWING REPORT IS SUBMITTED, FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE AD CONFIDENTIAL

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HOC GROUP, AS THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE AD HOC GROUP IN THE WEEK ENDING (SUNDAY OF EACH WEEK)."

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 PM-03 INR-10 NSC-10 NSCE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 224

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENNA 8688

LIMDIS

8. BELGIAN DRAFT OPENING STATEMENT

CHAIRMAN AHG ASKED THE MEMBERS OF THE AHG TO COMMENT ON BELGIAN DRAFT OPENING STATEMENT WHICH HAD BEEN CIRCULATED IN ITS FRENCH VERSION TO MEMBERS OF THE AHG. (SEPTTEL TRANSLATION OF BELGIAN OPENING STATEMENT AS REVISED). UK REP QUESTIONED A SENTENCE IN PARAGRAPH 3 WHICH READ "THE ACTUAL LEVEL OF FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE ARE DISPROPORTIONATE TO THE RISKS OF CONFLICT AS THEY ACTUALLY PERTAIN." US DEP REP SAID THIS FORMULATION WAS HIGHLY AMBIGUOUS AND FURTHER-
MORE ENTAILED A QUESTIONABLE MILITARY ASSESSMENT OF THE PREVAILING SITUATION. HE REMARKED THAT THE PHRASE MIGHT BE SOMEWHAT IMPROVED IF IT READ: "PRESENT LEVEL OF FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE APPEARS EXCESSIVE IN RELATION TO THE SITUATION OF TRUST AND CONFIDENCE TO WHICH WE ASPIRE."

THE BELGIAN DEP REP ACCEPTED THIS MODIFICATION WITH THE COMMENT THAT HE WOULD SUBMIT IT TO HIS GOVERNMENT.

THE US REP THEN TANKED THE BELGIAN DEP REP FOR THE
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HELPFUL MANNER IN WHICH THE BELGIAN STATEMENT REFERRED TO THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE US AND SOVIET GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE THE FIRST STEPS. HE NOTED THAT THIS LAID THE GROUND WORK FOR THE US OPENING STATEMENT, WHICH WOULD DISCUSS THIS QUESTION IN MORE DETAIL.

THE BELGIAN DEP REP STILL ARGUED THAT THE US STATEMENTS WAS

MORE SPECIFIC THAN THE BELGIAN AND EXCEEDED SCOPE OF ALLIED PAPER.
HE HAD REPORTED VIEWS OF AD HOC GROUP TO BRUSSELS AND DID NOT
INTEND TO SAY ANYTHING FURTHER ON THE SUBJECT AT THIS POINT.

9. US OPENING STATEMENT

THE CHAIRMAN AHG THEN ASKED WHETHER THE US REP HAD ANY
CHANGES HE WISHED TO REPORT IN THE US OPENING STATEMENT. THE US
REP THEN READ THE TEXT OF THE AMENDMENT OF PARAGRAPH 25 US
OPENING STATEMENT HE HAD RECOMMENDED TO WASHINGTON (PARAGRAPH 3 OF
VIENNA 8578). AFTER SOME FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
AHG SUGGESTED THAT OTHER DELEGATIONS MAY WISH TO AMEND THEIR
STATEMENTS TO INDICATE THAT THE FIRST PHASE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL
FOCUS ON US-SOVIET REDUCTION. UK REP THEN STATED HE HAD RECEIVED
INSTRUCTIONS FOR EVENT THAT GROUP AGREED THAT
PARAS 26 AND 27 OF US TEXT SHOULD BE USED, TO AMEND PARAGRAPH 5
OF UK DRAFT BY ADDING FOLLOWING SENTENCES AT END OF PARAGRAPH:
"LIKE OUR ALLIES, WE BELIEVE THAT IT COULD ULTIMATELY BE MET BY
THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A COMMON CEILING FOR THE FROUND FORCES OF
EAST AND WEST IN CENTRAL EUROPE. BUT WE SHOULD BEGIN BY DISCUSSING
THE FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE OF THE TWO LARGEST POWERS OUTSIDE THE
AREA." UK REP INDICATED THAT HE WAS NOT QUITE SATISFIED WITH
THE WORDING OF REFERENCE TO US AND USSR AND WOULD SEEK TO REVISE
IT. UK REP ALSO MENTIONED THAT IN VIEW OF MID EAST SITUATION SOME
CHANGE IN REFERENCE TO DETENTE MAY BE NECESSARY IN THE OPENING
STATEMENTS AND THAT THE NEXT 10 DAYS WOULD TELL THE STORY.
THE CHAIRMAN AHG SAID THAT IF MID EAST IS TO BE MENTIONED,
ALL REPS SHOULD USE SIMILAR LANGUAGE IN THEIR COPENING REMARKS.
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